

# Soil Quality

## A foundation for cropland health and productivity

The soil works for you....

Soil quality affects:

Organic matter

Soil tilth

Crop productivity

Cation exchange

pH

Erosion potential

Infiltration

Compaction

Available water

Short-term drought  
tolerance

wildlife habitat

Air quality

Water quality

...if you work for the soil

To improve soil function and  
cropland health:

**Plant high residue crops**

Double crop or use cover crops

Add legumes and grasses to  
your rotation

Practice rotational grazing

Adopt no-till or strip tillage

Keep the ground covered with  
residue

Manage nutrients efficiently

Avoid driving on wet soil

Monitor soil quality and  
vegetation

[soils.usda.gov/sqi](https://soils.usda.gov/sqi)

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